

Holifield stars as WANDERERS MAKE HARD WORK OF IT

A BRILLIANT creative performance by Mick Holifield enabled Wycombe finally to shrug off a determined Hungerford Town team at Loakes Park on Saturday and so move into the second round of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup.

Now that Tony Price has departed to France, Holifield has more scope in which to develop his skills on the left side of the field and he made the most of his talent to pull Wycombe clear.

Not only did he create two of Wycombe's goals, but he was also involved in the move that led to their being awarded a penalty, which was subsequently missed.

Indeed, but for missed chances in the early stages, Wycombe could have won this match with something to spare. In their recent matches against Walthamstow Avenue and Woking, the Blues had the advantage of early goals. This time they would just not come.

Promising

This was partly due to a determined defensive display by their Isthmian Division Two opponents, who, decimated by injury, had little alternative. It may not have been attractive, but they succeeded in taking Wycombe to extra-time, which was quite an achievement in itself.

Considering that the average age of their back four is only 18, they should have a promising future. They performed with discipline, while upfront Ian Farr looked a dangerous striker.

But the match really revolved around what Wycombe could achieve — and for the first half it was very little. Apart from one amazing goalmouth melee when both Terry Glynn and Gary Toll saw shots blocked on the line, Wycombe created few

By MICHAEL KNOX Wycombe 3, Hungerford 2 (aet)

clear cut chances, despite having 90 per cent of the play and producing some attractive approach work.

Nine minutes into the second half they seemed certain to go ahead when awarded a penalty. Holifield's fine cross from the left went over Toll's head, but the ball bounced and struck Hungerford's Nigel Loveless on the arm.

In the absence of the regular penalty taker Howard Kennedy, who is injured, defender Steve Hardwick — a surprising choice — was selected to do the job. However, his shot was neither wide nor strong enough and goalkeeper Jim Greenwood saved easily.

Frailties

Wycombe had to wait a further nine minutes before their long search for a goal, came to an end. Once again it was Holifield who created the danger. In an elusive run, he raced past two defenders before playing a ball forward to Glynn, who scored with a clinical shot inside the right post from a narrow angle.

It seemed that would open the flood gates as

Hungerford had to push upfield. Gary Toll, brought in for Price, twice went close — the second effort actually hit a post before being cleared.

But Hungerford stuck to their task and exposed certain frailties in the home defence. A quick pass down the middle put Farr in the clear, and although Gary Lester parried the shot, the ball fell straight to Loveless who scored into an empty net.

The equaliser came 11 minutes from the end of ordinary time, and one felt that Hungerford had to score quickly again if they were to win. But they did not and Wycombe's greater fitness told in extra time.

Wycombe forced four quick corners before regaining the lead in the 103rd minute. A great pass by Paul Birdseye found Jimmy Jacobs on the right and his cross was netted by Glynn from close range.

So Glynn kept up his scoring form, but only after the referee had consulted with his flag-waving linesman. Th forward nearly had another but the referee spotted handball as he attempted to com-

plete a hat-trick.

One player who improved as the match progressed was Toll, who appeared to be regaining some of the form that he showed at the end of last season. One thing he needed more than anything else was a goal — and it came in the 109th minute.

Holifield made a jinking run along the bye-line and crossed into the middle, where Toll, with plenty of time and space, headed in from close range. It was his first competitive goal of the season for the first time.

Wycombe seemed home and dry but there was one more shock near the end when a casual piece of play by Steve Hardwick let Farr in for a deserved goal. But it came too late to change the result.

WYCOMBE: G. Lester; P. Birdseye, G. Borg, R. Davies, S. Hardwick, R. Dell, S. Long, G. Toll, T. Glynn, J. Jacobs (sub P. West 113 mins), M. Holifield.

HUNGERFORD: J. Greenwood; A. Norton, B. Mundee, D. Reilly, D. Bailey, D. McMahon, J. Stirland, D. Ingram, I. Farr, K. Curtis, N. Loveless. Subs N. Phillips and S. Webb (not used).

Referee: D. J. Potter (Reading).

Half-time: 0-0. Full-time: 1-1.

Scorers: Wycombe — Glynn (63 mins, 103), Toll (109); Hungerford — Loveless (79), Farr (119).

Wycombe out for revenge!

WYCOMBE will be going all out for revenge tonight (Tuesday) when they travel to their bogey ground at Hayes for a Berger Isthmian League Premier Division match.

Church Road has not been a happy hunting ground for Wycombe in recent seasons. They lost there in the league last season, and two months ago suffered a 2-1 defeat in the first round of the Hitachi Cup.

Hayes possess one of the best defensive records in the

league and will make it tough for a confident Wycombe side, who have scored a dozen goals in their past three games.

Blues should name the same side that defeated Hungerford on Saturday for this match, with Gary Toll, who showed signs of an improvement, holding his place.

Hayes have scored only seven league goals all season, but the Wanderers defence, which has shown signs of slackness in the past two games, cannot afford to relax.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F
Enfield	16	8	7	1	31
Dagenham	16	7	6	3	24
Bromley	12	7	3	2	25
Wycombe	15	6	5	4	24
Dulwich	12	6	5	1	22
Sutton	14	6	5	3	27
Walthamstow	14	7	2	5	11
Tooting	14	6	3	5	11
SloUGH	10	4	6	0	1
Harlow	15	4	6	5	6
Harrow	15	4	5	6	6
Woking	14	4	5	5	6
Hitchin	13	4	5	4	6
Barking	13	4	5	4	6
Staines	12	4	4	6	6
Boreham Wd	13	3	6	7	6
Leytstone	17	2	6	9	6
LtHrd	17	2	6	9	6
Croydon	12	3	6	7	6
Hayes	11	3	6	7	6
Hendon	12	2	6	8	6
Carshlton	12	3	6	7	6

*2 pts deducted